

Message Text

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: US-EC CONSULTATIONS - TRADE WORKING GROUP

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO HANDLING TRADE WORKING GROUP, EMPLOYING SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT STRUCTURE THAN THAT USED IN RECENT PAST. AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO SINGLE ISSUE OR HANDFUL OF ISSUES ON EITHER SIDE WHICH STANDS OUT AS PRIORITY QUESTION OF URGENT CONCERN. HOWEVER, NUMEROUS PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS DO EXIST AND SHOULD BE REVIEWED. RATHER THAN TAKE "LAUNDRY LIST" APPROACH OF DEALING WITH A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS SERIATIM, WE PROPOSE THAT TO EXTENT POSSIBLE WORKING GROUP DISCUSS SPECIFIC TRADE ISSUES AS

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THEY RELATE TO THE BROADER MANAGEMENT OF US-EC TRADE

RELATIONS. WE WOULD LIKE TO COVER SPECIFIC ISSUES BRIEFLY, BUT PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF SEEKING ANSWERS TO THE MORE GENERAL QUESTIONS OF HOW WE CAN REDUCE FRICTION BETWEEN US AND THE COMMUNITY IN BROAD AREAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN AND PURSUE OUR JOINTLY HELD OBJECTIVES MORE EFFECTIVELY. WHILE WE REALIZE THAT SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ON BOTH SIDES CAN AFFECT THIS EFFORT, OUR GROWING NUMBER OF BILATERAL DISPUTES ARGUES FOR PAYING INCREASED ATTENTION TO WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN REFINE OUR HANDLING OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES.

2. WE WOULD SUGGEST WORKING GROUP OPEN WITH DISCUSSION OF GENERAL STATE OF US-EC TRADE RELATIONS IN CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOLLOWED BY THREE BROAD HEADINGS UNDER WHICH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS MAY BE REVIEWED:

A) MULTILATERAL ISSUES (E.G. MTN AND MFA RENEWAL)

B) USE OF THE GATT AS AN INSTRUMENT IN MANAGING BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS (E.G. MIPS, WHEAT FLOUR, BARLEY MALT, INFLATION INSURANCE, NFDM)

C) STATUS OF OTHER CONTINUING ISSUES (E.G. SHOES, CVD CASES, PHOSPHATES, VEGETABLE OILS TAX, WINE)

3. IF GENERAL APPROACH ACCEPTABLE, DOES COMMISSION PROPOSE TO COVER ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN ABOVE LISTS? ROBINSON

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